

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A
WATER QUALITY STUDY (TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) to address multiple impairments in the Chowan River Basin (including portions of the Upper Nottoway River watershed and the Upper Blackwater River watershed). The affected streams were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report, the Virginia 2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters, and the 2004 VA Water Quality Assessment 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria. The streams are therefore not supporting the Primary Contact Recreation (swimmable) Designated Use.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. The TMDL has been completed and is available at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

Section 62.1-44.19:7.A and Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the

date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

The impairments include: 16.78 miles of Mill Swamp located in Isle of Wight and Surry Counties, 8.16 miles of Rattlesnake (Creek) Swamp located in Isle of Wight, 17.1 miles of Cypress Swamp located in Surry County, and 19.3 miles of Raccoon Creek in Sussex and Southampton Counties.

A public meeting on the development of the Raccoon Creek & Blackwater River Tributary Section of the Chowan River Basin TMDL Implementation Plan has been scheduled for **Monday, June 27, 2005, 7:00 p.m.** at the Airfield 4H Center, Spain Conference Lodge, in Wakefield, VA. Directions to the Airfield 4-H center can be found at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/airfield/drivingdir.html>. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed reductions in fecal bacteria needed in the Blackwater River Tributaries and Raccoon Creek impairments and to present the draft Implementation Plan.

The public comment period for this phase of the TMDL development will end on July 28, 2005. A fact sheet on the development of the Chowan River TMDL IP is available upon request or can be viewed on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chris French. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Chris French, Department of Environmental Quality, 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia, 23060, telephone (804) 527-5124, fax (804) 527-5106, or e-mail refrench@deq.virginia.gov.